

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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5 1. An information processing apparatus for use in a network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the apparatus comprising:

management means for managing the information of a shared device present in said network system;

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10 reception means for receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

15 transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and

renewal means for renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception means.

20 2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said
25 group.

3. An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes
second reception control means for detecting log-on of
another information processing apparatus to said
network system and receiving the information of the
5 shared device of said another information processing
apparatus.

4. An information processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted,
10 at the log-on to said network system, to automatically
receive the information of the shared device present
in said network system.

5. An information processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is
15 adapted, in response to the detection of a change in
the status of a shared device connected to the own
apparatus, to transmit information on the status after
said change.

6. An information processing apparatus according
to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is
adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to
automatically transmit the information of the shared
25 device connected to the own apparatus.

7. An information processing apparatus according

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to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said network system.

9. An information processing method for use in a network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the method comprising:
a management step of managing the information of a shared device present in said network system by management means;
a reception step of receiving the information of

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a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

a transmission step of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and

a renewal step of renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception step.

10 10. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception means includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group.

15 11. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to said network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus.

20 12. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically

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receive the information of the shared device present in said network system.

13. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said change.

14. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus.

15. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

16. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information

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processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said network system.

17. A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for use in a network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the program comprising:

a management step of managing the information of a shared device present in said network system by management means;

a reception step of receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

a transmission step of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and

a renewal step of renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception step.

18. A computer readable memory according to

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claim 17, wherein said reception means includes a
first reception control step of designating a group
satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the
information of the shared device included in said
5 group.

19. A computer readable memory according to
claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a
second reception control step of detecting log-on of
10 another information processing apparatus to said
network system and receiving the information of the
shared device of said another information processing
apparatus.

20. A computer readable memory according to
claim 17, wherein said reception step is adapted, at
the log-on to said network system, to automatically
receive the information of the shared device present
in said network system.

21. A computer readable memory according to
claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted,
in response to the detection of a change in the status
of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to
25 transmit information on the status after said change.

22. A computer readable memory according to

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claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted,
at the log-on to said network system, to automatically
transmit the information of the shared device
connected to the own apparatus.

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23. A computer readable memory according to
claim 17, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in
response to the detection of log-off of another
information processing apparatus from said network
10 system, to invalidate the information of the shared
device of said another information processing
apparatus in said management means.

24. A computer readable memory according to
15 claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted,
in informing the information of the shared device
connected to the own apparatus to another information
processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first
method for transmission to a predetermined management
20 apparatus on said network system or a second method
for transmission to another information processing
apparatus through said network system.

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